

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MCT-01 /074 W

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R 250500Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, TH, PINT, PGOV

SUBJ: RTG CRACKS DOWN ON LABOR

REF: A) BKK 1603 B) BKK 1056

SUMMARY: A TRASPORTATION WORKERS UNION SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR JAN 23 WAS CANCELED, ALLEGEDLY BY ORDER OF THE PRIME MINISTER, AT THE LAST MINUTE, EVEN THOUGH, ACCORDING TO UNION LEADERS, PRIOR POLICE PERMISSION HAD BEEN GRANTED. THE METROPOLITAN ELECTRICAL AUTHORITY LABOR UNION, WHICH HAD CONFIDENTLY EXPECTED TO RECEIVE POLICE AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON JAN 24, WAS ALSO DENIED SUCH PERMISSION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, 15 WORKER LEADERS WHO ORGANIZED A WORK SLOWDOWN AT A COMPANY IN SARABURI PROVINCE WERE ARRESTED ON JAN 22; THE POLICE ALLEGEDLY DISCOVERED COMMUNIST DOCUMENTS IN THE MEN'S HOMES, AND THEY HAVE BEEN CHARGED AS "PERSONS DETRIMENTAL TO SOCIETY." END SUMMARY.

1. A TRANSPORTATION UNION SEMINAR ON "LABOR EDUCATORS AND THEIR ROLE IN NATION BUILDING," ORGANIZED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FEDERATION, WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SUNDAY, JAN 23. ACCORDING TO AN EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION (ETO) WORKERS UNION VICE PRESIDENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICE PERMISSION TO HOLD THE MEETING, AS REQUIRED, HAD BEEN OBTAINED BEFOREHAND. MORE THAN 100 WORKERS AND UNION LEADERS WERE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. EMBOFF HAD ALSO RECEIVED AN INVITATION; THE INVITATION ANNOUNCED THAT PM TANIN WOULD ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

2. ON THE EVENING OF JAN 22, SEMINAR ORGANIZERS WERE

INFORMED BY POLICE THAT THE SEMINAR COULD NOT RPT NOT BE HELD. ETO WORKERS UNION VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH POLICE PERMISSION HAD BEEN GRANTED BY POL. LTG CHUMPHON LOHACHALA, CHUMPHON'S DECISION HAD BEEN REVERSED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY THE PM HIMSELF. THE "NATION" OF JAN 24 QUOTES POLICE DEPART DEPUTY DG GEN. NARONG MAHANON AS SAYING THAT THE SEMINAR COULD NOT BE ALLOWED BECAUSE IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT IT WOULD BECOME A POLITICAL FORUM, WHICH IS ILLEGAL UNDER PRESENT MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS. THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTED FURTHER THAT ALTHOUGH THE PM HAD BEEN INVITED TO OPEN THE SEMINAR, HE HAD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTED THE INVITAION.

3. INASMUCH AS THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO IFORM ALL PARTICIPANTS THAT THE SEMINAR HAD BEEN CANCELLED, POLICE WERE ON HAND JAN 23 TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM ENTERING THE HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM WHERE THE MEETING WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE. ACCORDING TO AAFI REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS PRESENT, PARTICIPANTS MILLED ABOUT THE HOTEL LOBBY, LISTENED TO A READING OF THE OFFICIAL NOTICE BANNING THE SEMINAR, AND THEN DISPERSED. HE ADDED THAT ETO WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT SUNTHOEN KEOWNET IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PM TANIN IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR AND TO SEEK PERMISSION TO CONVENE IT.

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AAFI REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE METROPOLITAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY LABOR UNION HAD BEEN DENIED POLICE PERMISSION TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR JAN 24. THE MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN POSTPONED PREVIOUSL IN NOV. POLICE PERMISSION TO HOLD THE MEETING JAN. 24 WAS CONFIDENTLY EXPECTED UNTIL A SURPRISE REFUSAL WAS DELIVERED A FEW DAYS AGO. THE AAFI REPRESENTATIVE KNEW OF NO REASONS FOR THE REFUSAL.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, 15 WORKER LEADERS WHO ORGANIZED A WORK SLOWDOWN AT THE NON-UNIONIZED ROYAL MOSIAC EXPORTING COMPANY (RMEX) IN SARABURI PROVINCE, WERE ARRESTED ON JAN 22. THE /NATION" OF JAN 23AND 24 SAID THE 15 WERE CHARGED AS "PERSONS DETRIMENTAL TO SOCIETY" AFTER POLICE REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED SEVERAL SOMMUNIST DOCUMENTS DURING A SEARCH OF THE MEN'S RESIDENCES. THE SARABURI POLICE COMMISSION IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS CONTAINED PROCEDURES FOR STAGING WORK STOPPAGES AND FOR SPREADING PROPAGANDA, THE MANAGER OF RMEX, WHICH IS OWNED BY FORMER DEPUTY PM MAJ. GEN. PRAMAN ADIREKSAN'S FAMILY, IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT NORMAL PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 1,000 PIECES OF CERAMICWARE PER DAY HAD DECREASED TO 500 PIECES ON JAN 21 ONE

THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED WORKERS ARE SAID TO HAVE PARTICIPATED
IN THE WORK SLOWDOWN, TO BACK UP DEMANDS FOR ANNUAL
BONUS.

6. COMMENT:THE RTG AND SOME ORGANIZED LABOR ELEMENTS
APPEAR TO BE INCREASINGLY AT LOGGERHEADS. THE GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAS BANNED STRIKES, IS BECOMIN INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS
OF LABOR ACTIVITIES AND THIS ATTITUDE COULD PROVOKE LABOR
LEADERS TO FLOUT THE LAW. ALTHOUGH THE STRIKES REPORTED IN
REFTEL A MET WITH NO GOVERNMENT REACTION, THE SARABURI
SLOWDOWN HAS BEEN DEALT WITH SUMMARILY. UNLESS THE
GOVERNMENT MOVES TO CONCILIATE LABOR--BOTH THE SMALL
ORGANIZED LABOR SEGMENT AS WELL AS THE VAST BODY OF UN-
ORGANIZED "SWEATSHOP" LABOR--THE SITUATION MAY WELL
DETERIORATE SERIOUSLY. THE TANIN GOVERNMENT HAS A
POTENTIALY SERIOUS PROBLEM ON ITS HANDS, A PROBLEM WHICH,
IF IT EMERGES, WILL BE IN NO SMALL PART OF ITS OWN MAKING.
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WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3516142
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG CRACKS DOWN ON LABOR
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PGOV, OCON, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46062bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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